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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. overall

a. In general, the reports received from the Soviet-occupied European countries up to the beginning of March 1950 do not indicate any changes in the strength and organization of Soviet Ground Force units during the Winter of 1949/1950.

There are no indications that any units have been withdrawn from the occupied countries or that any new units have arrived from the Soviet Union. There are, however, first indications that new recruits arrived in the Soviet Zone of Germany after mid-January 1950.

b. The training of the troops during the winter months was conducted almost exclusively at the military posts. Some reports referred to training courses for officers and some small-scale special exercises. Although no large-scale winter maneuvers have been observed there may have been some before March 1950.

Indications are that troops will move to the troop training grounds after the end of March 1950 as they did last year.

c. Numerous reports received between 10 February and 10 March 1950 confirmed and supplemented the OB situation of the Soviet Ground force units in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

2. Germany

a. General.

(1) Reports received between 10 February and 10 March 1950 confirmed the general disposition of the Soviet Occupation Forces Germany up to mid-February 1950.

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Hq 94th Gds Itz Rifle Div, [] in Schwerin until
3 February 1950

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115th How Arty Regt, [] in Schwerin until
January 1950

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59th Recz Regt, [] in Ludwigslust until
January 1950

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d. First Gds Recz Army.

Hq First Gds Recz Army in Dresden until 7 January 1950

6th Mtl Bn, [] in Dresden until early January 1950

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Hq 8th Gds Recz Div, [] in Grimma until 14 January 1950

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Hq 9th Tank Div, [] in Riesa until 17 January 1950

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? No Engr Bn/9th Tank Div in Oschatz until 9 January 1950

? No Trans Bn/9th Tank Div in Meissen until 5 January 1950

? No Tank Tng Bn/9th Tank Div in Riesa until 17 January 1950

Hq 11th Gds Tank Div, [] in Klotzsche until
mid January 1950

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44th Gds Tank Regt, [] in Bautzen until 5 January 1950

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45th Gds Tank Regt, [] in Komenz until 12 January 1950

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153rd Gds Sig Bn, in Klotzsche until early January 1950

? No (9th Gds ?) Mtl/11th Gds Tank Div in Dresden until
16 December 1949.

(e) Second Gds Recz Army.

Hq 9th Gds Tank Div, [] in Neustrelitz until 10 Febru-
ary 1950

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33rd Gds Itz Rifle Regt, [] in Pasewalk until
10 January 1950

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47th Gds Tank Regt, [] in Neustrelitz area until
18 January 1950

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50th Gds Tank Regt, [] in Neustrelitz until 11 January
1950

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48th Gds Tank Regt, [] in Neuruppin until 23 Decem-
ber 1949.

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Hq 1st Recz Div, [] in Doberitz-Kropnitz until
26 January 1950

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35th Recz Regt, [] in Doberitz until 20 December 1949

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219th Tank Regt, [] in Doberitz until 24 January 1950.

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(f) Third Gds Mecz Army (Cadre)

50th Mot Regt (Cadre), [redacted] in Luckenwalde until
 10 January 1950

Hq 14th Gds Mecz Div (Cadre), [redacted] in Jueterbog until
 17 January 1950 25X1

48th Gds Mecz Regt (Cadre), [redacted] in Jueterbog until
 17 January 1950 25X1

49th Gds Mecz Regt (Cadre), [redacted] in Jueterbog until
 17 January 1950 25X1

? No Rocket Bn (Cadre)/14th Gds Mecz Div (Cadre), [redacted]
 in Jueterbog until 5 January 1950 25X1

272d Gds Mort Regt (Cadre), [redacted] in area Wittenberg
 until 2 February 1950 25X1

Hq 9th Mecz Div (Cadre), [redacted] in Cottbus until
 15 February 1950 25X1

71st Mecz Regt (Cadre), [redacted] in Cottbus until mid-
 February 1950

1719th AAA Regt (Cadre) in Cottbus until 4 February 1950.

(g) Fourth Gds Mecz Army (Cadre).

Hq Fourth Gds Mecz Army (Cadre) in Eberswalde until
 25 January 1950

312th Gds Rocket Regt (Cadre), [redacted] in Eberswalde until
 5 December 1949 25X1

? No. AAA Div (Cadre)/Fourth Gds Mecz Army (Cadre) in
 Frankfurt/Oder-Fuerstenwalde area until January 1950

16th Gds Mecz Regt (Cadre), [redacted] in Bad Freienwalde
 until 5 January 1950 25X1

82d Gds Div Tank Sp Regt (Cadre), [redacted] in Bernau or
 Eberswalde until 29 December 1949 25X1

240th Gds Mort Regt (Cadre), [redacted] in Bernau until
 29 December 1949 25X1

? No. (120th ?) AAA Regt (Cadre)/6th Gds Mecz Div (Cadre)
 in Bernau until 25 December 1949

Hq 25th Tank Div (Cadre), [redacted] in Oranienburg until
 6 February 1950 25X1

194th Engr Bn (Cadre)/25th Tank Div (Cadre), [redacted]
 not located up to 24 January 1950 25X1

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248th Gds Mort Bn (Cadre), [] in Kramnitz until
28 January 1950

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(2) The following order of Battle data are noteworthy:

(a) []

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[] it has been established beyond doubt
that most component units (two or three regiments) of the
3 No. AAA Div (Cadre)/Fourth Gds Wehr Army (Cadre) have been
stationed in Frankfurt/Oder and some component units (presum-
ably one regiment) in Fuerstenwalde (Waldfrieden airfield) since
the late Fall of 1949 (References (1) and (2)).

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(b) []

knowledge on the Op of the 6th Gds Wehr Div (Cadre) was
essentially improved (Reference (3)).

(c) Incoming reports stated that a tank unit (60 to 80 tanks)
moved to Brandenburg (Pionier Kaserne) in late December 1949.

The above unit may be a tank unit (regiment ?) of the 10th
Gds Tank Div (Cadre) []

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[] Should this assumption prove correct, the divi-
sion's billeting area, so far assumed as the Falkensee-Doeberitz-
Kramnitz area, would extend as far as Brandenburg.

c. Strength and Organization.

The computed strength of Soviet units, headquarters and SCC
offices, as laid down in a separate report (Reference (5)),
did not change. There were no changes, either, in the number,
organization and equipment of Soviet units during the winter
of 1949/1950.

d. Personnel.

(1) According to old and recently received reports, some
small contingents of EM arrived at units in the Soviet Zone of
Germany in December 1949. The EM were presumably specialists
or recruits who were inducted in the Soviet Union in the Spring
of 1949 (induction of the mass of the 1929 class and contin-
gents of the 1930 class) but who were shipped to Germany behind
schedule. There are first indications that new recruits (last
contingent of the 1929 class and the mass of the 1930 class)
arrived in the Soviet Zone of Germany after mid-January 1950.

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[] It is
assumed that these recruits were inducted in the Soviet Union
in the Fall of 1949 and, after a two or three-month period of
basic training in special training centers, were shipped to
units in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

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(2) Some reports from Thuringia and Saxony refer to the repatriation of troops to be discharged (1928 class) (References (9), (10), and (11)). It is still assumed that trained troops due for demobilization are shipped to the Soviet Union on leave trains and trains carrying returning dependents.

(3) Shipments of Soviet dependents returning to the Soviet Union from the Soviet Zone of Germany were observed at an increased rate during the period covered by this report. This was also observed during preceding months. The numerous pertinent reports indicate that dependents due for repatriation are processed at special collecting points from where they are shipped east by trainloads. Such collecting points have been determined in Berlin (Schlesischer Bahnhof), Doeberitz, Gueterbog, Magdeburg, Rathenow, Neustrelitz, Weissen and Jelmur.

The repatriation of dependents is presumably connected with the exchange of officers who were stationed in occupied territories for a period exceeding two or three years and with the reorganization of the SMA into the SCC (reduction of personnel).

The whole repatriation program is not considered indicative of efforts to give the Soviet forces a status of greater preparedness for war. It is probably carried through only in an effort to have Soviet military personnel and their dependents, exposed to the influences of the western world, no longer than necessary.

e. Training.

(1) The training of the Soviet units during the winter months consisted mostly of basic drill and arms drill at the Kasernes and of small-scale field exercises near the military posts. Some artillery firing practices and special engineer exercises may have also been held (References (12) and (13)). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] field exercises may have been conducted in the areas of Ohrdruf, Letzling Heath and Altengrabow (which were known as training areas in 1949) in January and February 1950.

(2) The Doeberitz-Olympisches Dorf school for infantry, artillery and tank officers (allegedly attended by 1,000 officers) was again confirmed. The school is believed to conduct training courses for company and battalion commanders and to be directly subordinate to the GOFG (Reference (14)).

(3) Indications increased, during the period covered by the report that troops will move to the troop training grounds after the end of March 1950 as they did last year.

Throughout the winter months only guard details were stationed at most of the troop training grounds. Some of the training grounds and troop camps (Schweinrich, Werder-Markendorf, Camp Jamlitz) were enlarged.

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g. Supply situation.

Available information was compiled in a summary on supply installations (ammunition, fuel, ration supplies, spare parts and general supplies) (Reference (18)), and in a report on Soviet Army supply and logistics (Reference (19)), to be submitted soon.

h. NGB/IVD Units

(1) NGB/IVD units were confirmed as stationed in the following cities:

(a) Chemnitz: One or two battalions in the kaserne on Leninstrasse on 31 January 1950, []

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(b) Dresden: About 500 troops in the former Luftkriegsschule, Weixdorf, on 21 February 1950. []

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(c) Halle: About 500 troops in the kaserne on Heilstrasse on 28 January 1950, []

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(d) Leipzig: About 800 troops in the former clothing depot, Gohlis, []

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(2) An NGB/IVD unit of about 200 men was for the first time observed in the Albrecht der Baer kaserne, Stendal, during the first half of January 1950, [].

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(3) Several reports indicate that small NGB/IVD detachments arrived in the area of the Harz Mts, presumably to exercise control in the uranium mines. For example, an 80-man detachment of the NGB/IVD arrived in Lernigerode in mid-January 1950, []

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(4) The NGB/IVD battalion quartered in the former Oberrealschule on August Bebelstrasse (formerly Bismarckstrasse), Cottbus, up to the fall of 1949, according to coinciding reports [] was apparently transferred to another place as reports on the occupation of Cottbus have not mentioned NGB/IVD troops for some time.

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A previous assumption that the Meissen-Zaschendorf kaserne may be occupied by an NGB/IVD unit did not prove true.

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1. Transportation Situation.

(1) Operating conditions of the Soviet zone railroad improved in February 1950 but nevertheless continued to be critical due to a shortage of locomotives caused by the high percentage under repair (30 to 34 percent) and, in some railroad districts, a shortage of coal.

The backlog of trains awaiting dispatch could be lowered to 117 for the entire zone, which represents a tolerable amount. The coal stockpiles continued to dwindle. They amounted to 176,028 tons on 7 February 1950 (emergency coal reserve: 150,375 tons, service coal on hand: 25,653 tons).

(2) The reconstruction of the dismantled single-track Schwaan-Buetzow line was definitely suspended for lack of rail material after most of the roadbed had been completed. Thus a desirable additional feeder line to the important Baltic Sea port of Rostock/Warnemuende will not be built.

(3) The resumption of track repair work at the southern railroad bridge over the Neisse River in Guben indicates the intention of reconstructing this bridge with a view to re-opening the important double-track Guben-Sommerfeld-Sagan-Breslau line for transit traffic.

(4) The railway viaduct of the Neisse River near Goerlitz is still destroyed although potentially being of great importance for Soviet transit traffic. So far only minor clearing work, has been observed here but no reconstruction.

(5) The increased scrap iron deliveries to the Soviet Union had an effect on east-bound traffic. During December 1949 a train loaded with scrap iron (50 cars) left via Frankfurt/Oder for Brest every second day.

3. Austria

Information obtained up to the beginning of March 1950 yielded the following data supplementing the previously known OB situation of the Soviet forces in the Soviet Zone of Austria (Reference (20)).

a. 13th Gds Mecz Div.

(1) The division was confirmed in its previous billeting area [redacted]

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(2) The 45th Gds Mecz Regt/13th Gds Mecz Div was confirmed [redacted] as being in Vienna-Traiskirchen up to 4 January 1950. [redacted] the 45th Gds Mecz Regt is commanded by Col Shchur [redacted] (Reference (21)).

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(3) Other reports confirmed the location of tank units (probably one tank regiment) in Bruck on the Leitha River.

the tank regiment (15th Tank Regt ?) is assigned to the 13th Gds Mecz Div.

(4) the 2500th AAA Regt of the 13th Gds Mecz Div may be stationed in Korneuburg. The GHQ AAA unit of the Central Group of Forces (about one AAA division, possibly the 23rd AAA div) is also assumed to be stationed in Korneuburg-Stockerau. It appears possible, however, that the AAA unit of the Central Group of Forces may be only a regiment. The concentration in the Korneuburg-Stockerau area of Soviet AAA units in Austria indicates that, for training purposes the division AAA units (AAA regiments of both the 13th Gds Mecz Div and the 95th Gds Rtz Rifle Div) may be subordinate to the GHQ AAA unit (23rd AAA Div or ? No AAA Regt) (Reference (22)).

b. 95th Gds Rtz Rifle Div.

It is assumed that the Hq 95th Gds Rtz Rifle Div was in St. Pölten up to early February 1950. According to latest reports, component units of the division were, as before, stationed in the St. Pölten-Lauter-Oehling area up to the beginning of February 1950 (Reference (23)).

4. Eastern Hungary and Rumania.

Soviet tank troops were still observed in the Kecskemet area in late January 1950. These troops presumably belong to units (of the 2d Gds Mecz Div ?) which, according to available information, are still staying in eastern Hungary and had previously been stationed in Rumania.

It is believed that most of those units were withdrawn from the border and distributed over a wider area in the winter of 1949/1950 (to take up winter quarters or for reasons of disguise).

5. Bulgaria.

Broadcasts and newspaper dispatches recently stated that Soviet Marshal Aonov has been appointed ^{chief} of the Bulgarian Armed Forces. This news however ^{must} be credited as a rumor as no definite information is available.

6. Soviet Union

the following units in the Soviet Union were confirmed or identified for the first time since the war:

a. 16th Gds Rifle Div in the area of Insterburg, East Prussia.

besides the 16th Gds Rifle Div, the 31st Gds Rifle Div was also

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mentioned to be stationed in the Jasterburg area, the two divisions may now rather safely be assumed to be located in that area (Reference (24)).

b. 15th "Sivash-Redbanner" Rifle Div.

[redacted] the 676th Rifle Regt of the 15th Rifle Div. The division had been stationed in Nikolayev, Odessa MD, in 1939. It is considered probable that, after returning to the Soviet Union from Bulgaria with the Thirty-Seventh Army in 1946, the division may again be stationed in Nikolayev (Reference (25)).

c. 83rd Gds Army Regt (possibly assigned directly to the first Gds Army as it was during World War II). The regiment

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References:

[redacted]

1 Annex: Soviet Order of Battle in Germany as of Mid-February 1950 (List)

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